

UNIFIED ARIZONA VETERANS (UAV), P.O. BOX 34338, PHOENIX, AZ 85067

**MINUTES OF THE UAV GENERAL MEETING HELD ON APRIL 7, 2012
AT THE STATE VETERAN HOME, 4141 N. SILVESTRE HERRERA WAY,
PHOENIX, AZ 85012**

CALL TO ORDER: 10:04 a.m. by Chairman Lew Bradley, followed by Invocation by Chaplain Bo Bohach, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION: “Boy Scouts Helping Veterans” – Rob Madden, Veterans Liaison, Grand Canyon Council, Boy Scouts of America

The Grand Canyon Council of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is making a concentrated effort to reach out to our veterans and veteran organizations to ask how the BSA can help veterans organizations serve veterans in Arizona. With over 65,000 Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venture/Varsity crews, and adult volunteers, the BSA is offering its time and energy to giving back to our veterans. Veterans organizations, feel free to contact Rob Madden with your thoughts and ideas on how the BSA can assist you: Rob Madden, Grand Canyon Council BSA Veteran Liaison, 480-888-1234, rob@robmadden.com

PRESENTATION: “Update: Arizona Women Veterans” – Gabe Forsberg, Women Veteran Coordinator/Strategic Planner, AZ Dept of Veterans’ Services

Gabe Forsberg presented information about women in the military, for example, 1 of every 5 new recruits is female. In the women veteran population, 21% have PTSD, 20% have musculoskeletal issues, 20% have MST/military sexual trauma issues, and the number of homeless women veterans is increasing. All AZDVS veterans benefits counselors, including the 30% female VBCs, are trained to help women veterans resolve their benefits claims and counseling for other issues. Outreach efforts to women veterans in Arizona started in June 2009, and continue to the present time, with the 4th Annual Arizona Women’s Military Veteran Conference scheduled for Saturday, June 16, 2012 in Phoenix (8 am to 5 pm, Shrine Auditorium, 552 N. 40th St, Phoenix 85008) and in Tucson (8 am to 5 pm, Tucson Scottish Rite Cathedral, 160 S. Scott Ave, Tucson 85702).

ROLL CALL: Quorum established for conducting business.

March 3, 2012 Minutes: Motion to approve by Carol Culbertson, seconded by Phil Hanson. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT presented by Treasurer Jesse Gersten. Report is on file with the Secretary.

SICKNESS & DISTRESS – Chaplain Bohach

Tony Saputo had heart surgery on April 6th.

Norm Ross is scheduled for surgery on May 2nd

Billee Culin in Mohave County had surgery and is now cancer free. Billee's daughter has cancer and the prognosis is not good. Billee's email: billie@shadows33.com, cell: 1.860-670-6459 (Gene Crego)

REPORTS:

1. Representative Schweikert's Office: Dan Caldwell, Outreach representative, briefed that the biggest issue for the last 3 weeks has been TRICARE. Arizona's House Delegation did write a letter to the DOD, questioning DOD's methodology in awarding the new TRICARE contract for the Western Region which includes Arizona. Other bills pending: HR3298, Homes for Heroes (new VA position at HUD to help with veteran housing issues, pending at the Senate. HR4048, Improving Contracting Opportunities for Veteran- Owned Small Business Act of 2012. HR4072, Consolidating Veteran Employment Services for Improved Performance Act of 2012, To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve employment services for veterans by consolidating various programs in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. Transfers as of October 1, 2013 to the Secretary of VA specific programs of the Department of Labor including (1) job counseling, training, employment, placement services; (2) employment and reemployment rights of reservists and (3) homeless veterans reintegration programs. Directs the President for FY 2014 to request funding in the VA budget thereafter for such functions.

SB2259 (same as HB4114) Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2012 - Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to increase, as of December 1, 2012, the rates of veterans' disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, the clothing allowance for certain disabled veterans, and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children. Requires each such increase to be the same percentage as the increase in benefits provided under title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) of the Social Security Act, on the same effective date.

HR3895, Protect VA Healthcare Act of 2012, To amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to clarify that all veterans programs are exempt from sequestration.

A lame duck session is predicted. Dan encouraged us to communicate with our Senators and Representatives via email, letters, and phone calls. However, we need to be aware that communications using offensive language are thrown away.

Congressman Schweikert is sponsoring a Job Fair on Friday, April 20, 2012 at Scottsdale Community College (Turquoise Room), 9000 E. Chaparral Rd, Scottsdale, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Daniel Caldwell, Outreach: Daniel.Caldwell@mail.house.gov, 480.946.2411.

2. Arizona Dept of Veterans' Services: Greg Sulzer, Army veteran, representing Director Strickland, who is recuperating from shoulder surgery

SB1058 signed by Governor Brewer on March 13, 2012, extends Dept of Veterans' Services for 10 years.

SB1190, Tax credit; military family relief, passed (signed by Gov Brewer on April 17, 2012). Military Family Relief Fund extended to 31 Dec 2018.

SB1293, Veterans' organizations, solicitations; signed by Gov Brewer on March 15, 2012. Eliminates authority of ADVS to approve/disapprove veterans organizations to solicit donations in the name of American veterans. Requires veterans organizations that solicit money or other support in Arizona for American veterans to register with the Secretary of State. Greg Sulzer: gsulzer@azdvs.gov, 602.255.3373

3. UAV Board of Directors: Chairman Bradley announced the appointment of Lionel Sanchez – UAV Legislative Chair. The March 26th Korean War Veterans Commemoration Ceremony at Bolin Plaza was a wonderful tribute to our Korean War veterans. There are a few organizations who are late in renewing their UAV dues, which were due on March 3rd – see Treasurer Gersten right away.

Vice Chair Madden reported that we have a UAV website (www.azuav.org). The \$350 cost for 3 years is considered reasonable and was approved at the UAV Board on April 7th. Grateful thanks to Leticia Garcia, a student at Paradise Valley Community College and volunteer designer of the web site. A Webmaster is needed, Reggie Yates has volunteered, Thank you, Reggie!

4. UAV Legislative Committee: Newly appointed UAV Legislative Chair Lionel Sanchez invited a few more UAV reps to become part of the UAV Legislative Committee. The UAV Legislative Committee meets from 9:00 am to 9:45 am, Second Floor area adjacent to Liberty Hall, just prior to the 10 a.m. UAV meeting (1st Saturday).

HB2165, Veterans Preference Points: Jon Altmann, AUSN representative to the UAV, reported that the Arizona Legislature passed HB2165 and the Governor signed it on 4/3/12, granting veterans preference points for state, county and city jobs to members of the Reserve and National Guard who have 20 or more years of service and do not otherwise have a DD214 for 181 days or more of active duty. The new law amends the existing Federal definition of "veteran" on matters concerning Arizona's public employee laws. Arizona is now the first state in the nation to extend that benefit. The Military Coalition on Capitol Hill has been working for 20 years to change the Federal definition, having passed a bill in the U.S. House and trying to gain a vote in the U.S. Senate.

Jon also serves as National VP – Enlisted Affairs, The Association of the US Navy, www.ausn.org: jon@jonaltmann.com

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS/OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Dave Willis, Air Force Sergeants Assn representative to the UAV, expressed a

complaint about the awful way the National Anthem was sung at the Diamondbacks' opening game on April 6th. Dave requested that Chairman Bradley send a letter to the Diamondbacks Front Office asking that the National Anthem be sung in the standard way (for example, the tune played by military bands). Chairman Bradley sent the letter on April 9th.

2. Reminder: Nominations for the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame, Class of 2012, are due on April 30, 2012 (postmark due date). Mail to: Unified AZ Veterans, P.O. Box 34338, Phoenix 85067.

GOOD OF THE ORDER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Friday, April 20, 2012: Job Fair sponsored by Representative Schweikert, 11 am to 2 pm, Scottsdale Community College Turquoise Room, 9000 E. Chaparral Road, Scottsdale 85256 (Dan Caldwell at: Daniel.caldwell@mail.house.gov, 480.946.2411.

2. Saturday, April 28, 2012: American Legion Family's 4th Annual Picnic, Encanto Park, 2605 N. 15th Avenue, Phoenix, 11 am to 4 pm (Terry Araman, taraman@lodestardrc.org

Terry also reported that the Vets for Vets store needs/is looking for a 5,000 square foot space. Please call Barbara, United for Change organization, 602.400.5182.

3. Saturday, May 26, Memorial Day Commemoration in Surprise, AZ: Larry Brown reported that color guards are invited to participate. Contact Larry at: LarryAZ1@aol.com

4. Monday, May 28th, Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony, National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona, north Cave Creek Road, north Phoenix: Mel Brody, Memorial Day Committee, reported that funds are needed to support the Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony expenses. Please mail your donation check to:

Mel Brody, Treasurer
National Cemetery Memorial Day Support Group
24641 N. 76th Place
Scottsdale, AZ 85255

5. 10,000 Flags are available and free: contact David Lucier at: davidflucier@cox.net

6. 50/50 Raffle winner: Larry Brown \$45, UAV Treasury: \$44.

Next Meeting: Saturday, May 5, 2012, State Veteran Home, Liberty Hall, 2nd Floor, 10 am to Noon.

Closing prayer was given by Chaplain Bohach.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CAROL CULBERTSON
Secretary, Unified Arizona Veterans
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Email: claudehc@yahoo.com